

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANILA 13573 080542Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /090 W

-----127243 080556Z /16

R 071025Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9697

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 13573

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: SUCCESSION: "IMELDA FOR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER"

- BANDWAGON BEGINS

REF: MANILA 13457

1. SUMMARY: IN THE WAKE OF PRESIDENT MARCOS' ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW SUCCESSION DECREE, ATTENTION IS FOCUSING ON HIS FUTURE CHOICE OF A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. "TIMES JOURNAL," OWNED BY THE ROMUALDEZ FAMILY, IS PUSHING MRS. MARCOS FOR THE JOB. IN SUCCESSIVE NEWS STORIES IT HAS POINTED OUT THAT SHE IS CONSTITUTIONALLY AND REGIONALLY QUALIFIED, THAT POLITICAL LEADERS IN SOUTHWEST MINDANAO HAVE PETITIONED FOR HER APPOINTMENT, AND THAT TWO IBP MEMBERS HAVE SET UP A CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS FOR HER. IT NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT SHE MAY "REFUSE A DRAFT" AND THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER POSSIBLE CHOICES. OTHER MANILA PAPERS ARE REMAINING SILENT, BUT THIS CAMPAIGN IS STRIKINGLY SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO "DRAFT" MRS. MARCOS FOR HIGH OFFICE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT/PRIME MINISTER MARCOS ANNOUNCED AUGUST 3 (REFTEL) A NEW SUCCESSION DECREE NAMING INTERIM
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANILA 13573 080542Z

LEGISLATURE (IBP) SPEAKER MAKALINTAL AS TEMPORARY CEREMONIAL PRESIDENT AND AN AS-YET-UNNAMED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AS TEMPORARY PRIME MINISTER IN THE EVENT OF MARCOS' DEATH OR INCAPACITY. POLITICAL SPECULATION HAS INEVITABLY FOCUSED ON WHO WILL BE NAMED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. UNDER THE 1976 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, "THE PRESIDENT (PRIME MINISTER) IF HE SO DESIRES MAY APPOINT

A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OR AS MANY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS
AS HE MAY DEEM NECESSARY."

3. FIRST OFF THE BLOCKS IN LOBBYING FOR THE POSITION HAVE BEEN SUPPORTERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE, IMELDA ROMUALDEZ MARCOS. AN AUGUST 5 ARTICLE IN "TIMES JOURNAL" (OWNED BY THE ROMUALDEZ FAMILY) POINTED OUT THAT, CONSTITUTIONALLY, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MUST COME "FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY" AND "SHALL HEAD A MINISTRY." THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT MRS. MARCOS, "AS ASSEMBLYWOMAN FROM METRO MANILA AND AS MINISTER FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, IS, UNDER THIS PROVISION, QUALIFIED FOR THE POSITION." (IT WENT ON TO POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IN THEORY MARCOS CAN QUALIFY ANYBODY HE WANTS FOR THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP BY FIRST APPOINTING HIM TO HEAD A MINISTRY AND THEN APPOINTING HIM TO ONE OF THE SEVEN UNFILLED IBP SEATS FOR NONELECTED CABINET MEMBERS.) THE ARTICLE ALSO COMMENTED THAT "IF REGIONAL CONSIDERATIONS MAY BE ALLOWED TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE CHOICE, THE ASSEMBLYMEN FEEL THE RESOLUTION TO THE CURRENT PUZZLE IS RIGHT AT THEIR FINGERTIPS." MRS. MARCOS, A NATIVE OF LEYTE, IS ONE OF ONLY TWO CABINET MINISTERS NOT FROM LUZON.

4. ON AUGUST 6, THE "TIMES JOURNAL" REPORTED THAT REGION IX COMMISSIONER RADM ROMULO ESPALDON (WHO IS ALSO MILITARY COMMANDER FOR THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES) AND ALL THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MANILA 13573 080542Z

PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS AND MAYORS OF CHARTERED CITIES IN SOUTHWEST MINDANAO HAD SIGNED A RESOLUTION ASKING THE PRESIDENT TO APPOINT MRS. MARCOS.

5. A THIRD "TIMES JOURNAL" ARTICLE, DATED AUGUST 7, REPORTS THAT SPEAKER MAKALINTAL, AT MARCOS' REQUEST, IS CALLING A MEETING OF "17 OF THE PRESIDENT'S MOST TRUSTED MEN" IN THE IBP TO "SOUND OUT THE REGIONAL LEADERS ON THEIR RESPECTIVE PREFERENCES FOR THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S POST." THE ARTICLE PREDICTS A "FREE-FOR-ALL," SINCE "THERE IS MUCH LIKELIHOOD" THAT MRS. MARCOS "WILL REFUSE A DRAFT, IN KEEPING WITH A PRE-ELECTION PLEDGE." BUT IT NOTES THAT TWO OF THOSE INVITED HAVE ALREADY SET UP A "MRS. MARCOS FOR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER" CAMPAIGN HEAD-QUARTERS.

6. NAMED AS "FRONT-RUNNERS IN THE LIST OF PROBABLES" IN THE AUGUST 7 ARTICLE ARE TOURISM MINISTER ASPIRAS, ASSEMBLYMAN AND FORMER VICE PRESIDENT PELAEZ, LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER AND IBP FLOOR LEADER RONO, FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO, DEFENSE MINISTER ENRILE, LABOR MINISTER OPLE, AND ASSEMBLYMAN JOSE BENGSON (80-YEAR-OLD FORMER

JUSTICE SECRETARY AND SUPREME COURT JUSTICE). THE ARTICLE ALSO SAYS THAT THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULED IBP RECESS MAY BE POSTPONED "SHOULD A STALEMATE OCCUR IN THE MAJORITY CHOICE FOR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER."

7. COMMENT: THESE "TIMES JOURNAL" ARTICLES HAVE ALL THE FAMILIAR EARMARKS OF A CAMPAIGN TO "DRAFT" MRS. MARCOS, AS WAS DONE BEFORE SHE BECAME METRO MANILA GOVERNOR AND THEN IBP CANDIDATE. HOWEVER, OTHER PAPERS, OWNED BY CRONIES OF THE PRESIDENT, HAVE NOT PICKED IT UP, AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THIS CAMPAIGN WILL BE AS SUCCESSFUL AS ITS PREDECESSORS. MURPHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA13573
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780323-1067
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780892/aaaaczex.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3c6c9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANILA 13457
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1820631
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUCCESSION: "IMELDA FOR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER" - BANDWAGON BEGINS
TAGS: PINT, RP, (MARCOS, IMELDA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3c6c9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014